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Bush adviser details role in aid to Contras

By Roger Fontaine
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Vice President George Bush's national security adviser will submit a report today to his boss detailing contacts he had with a retired CIA employee allegedly involved in private efforts to supply Nicaraguan rebels.

The vice president's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, confirmed yesterday that Donald P. Gregg was asked for the report.

Mr. Gregg disclosed in newspaper interviews last weekend he helped set up a meeting between U.S. officials and Felix Rodriguez, whose name was mentioned repeatedly in the circumstances surrounding the recent capture and trial of American soldier-of-fortune Eugene Hasenfus by the Marxist Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Mr. Rodriguez, who has had a long relationship with the CIA, was involved in the Bay of Pigs aborted landing in Cuba in the early 1960s.

Mr. Gregg, in a phone interview with The Washington Times, yesterday repeated earlier statements that neither he nor the vice president co-

ordinated or conducted operations in Central America.

The report, sources said, would be in the form of a chronology of events involving the vice president's office.

"The vice president will review Gregg's accounting and it certainly will be made available to the independent counsel and the appropriate committees of Congress," Mr. Fitzwater told The Associated Press yesterday.

"At this point there is no indication of wrongdoing, but we sure want to find out all the facts," the vice president's press secretary said.

"Gregg apparently had taken it upon himself to put Felix in touch with various people," Mr. Fitzwater said. "He had not previously told the vice president. . . . I think the vice president feels that he should have been told."

At Mr. Gregg's request, Pentagon, CIA and State Department officials met with Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Gregg on Aug. 12. At that meeting, Mr. Rodriguez voiced his fears the Nicaraguan resistance was in trouble. Private aid and humanitarian assistance from the U.S. government,

he said, would not see the rebels through until an additional \$100 million approved by Congress became available.

Mr. Rodriguez's other concern was the private resupply effort was being incompetently managed, sources said.

"We clearly want to get on the record all the information about Gregg's contacts with Felix Rodriguez," Mr. Fitzwater said.

"I think it is important to preface this by saying it does not have anything to do with transfer of Iran arms money or the Iranian initiative, both of which Don Gregg says he has no knowledge of," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Gregg, who once served in the CIA, has known Mr. Rodriguez since 1970. Mr. Gregg considers Mr. Rodriguez an expert on counterinsurgency and in 1985 recommended him to the Salvadoran government as an adviser in tactics and strategy.

Mr. Rodriguez's principal job, according to sources, was teaching new helicopter tactics to the Salvadoran armed forces. The effort, code-named "Relampago" (Lightning), featured using small spotter helicopters to locate communist rebels and then bringing in helicopter gunships and airborne troops.

The new tactics have been widely credited with giving the government the edge in the eight-year war by forcing the Salvadoran rebels to split into smaller, less effective guerrilla units.